

**CLAIMS**

1. Apparatus for simulating the measurement of a part using a visual measurement  
5 system, the apparatus comprising:

a computer executing a software program which receives a digital model of a part,  
and renders an image of the model of the part, the image rendered under conditions  
simulating a measurement system, and which evaluates the image to produce a value  
representative of a physical characteristic of the part.

10 2. A method of simulating measurement of a physical part using a computer model of  
the physical part, comprising:

launching measurement software;

simulating a physical measurement system;

15 manipulating the simulated measurement system to produce a virtual observation of  
the computer model; and

analyzing the virtual observation to produce the simulated measurement.

20 3. A software product including a machine readable medium on which is encoded a  
sequenced instructions which when executed cause an apparatus to perform steps of:

launching measurement software;

simulating a physical measurement system;

manipulating the simulated measurement system to produce a virtual observation of  
the computer model; and

25 analyzing the virtual observation to produce the simulated measurement.